GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

HM& FW Department – COVID-19 - Forecast and suggest the measure to be taken to Contain the Spread of disease in the State – Constitution of State Epidemiological Committee on COVID-19 – Orders - Issued.

HEALTH, MEDICAL & FAMILY WELFARE (B2) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.796 **Dated:31-12-2020**
Read:

-0-

ORDER:

The State of Andhra Pradesh developed the ability to mobilize large numbers of health workers and civil servants to conduct Contact tracing, identify high-risk individuals and closely track their cases and as on 15th December 2020, the State has conducted 1,09,37,377 COVID-19 tests and registered 8,76,336 positives. Among them, 8,64,612 have recovered and 7,064 expired which is substantially less among the major States in the country.

2. The purpose of Public Health Surveillance, is to understand the ongoing patterns of disease occurrence and disease potential so that investigation, control, and prevention measures can be applied efficiently and effectively. Surveillance and field investigations are usually sufficient to identify causes, modes of transmission, and appropriate control and prevention measures.

3. Early reporting and rapid response early in a disease outbreak can drastically reduce the number of potential cases and prevent further disease transmission.

4. Hence the Government, after careful examination of COVID-19 management in the State hereby constitutes the Committee with the following experts to study, forecast and suggest the measure to be taken to Contain the spread of the epidemic in the State.

Sl.No.	Name of the Officer	Role
1	Dr Vinod Kumar V, I.A.S., Project Director, AP Health Systems Strengthening Project	Chairperson
2	Dr Gagandeep Kang, Division of Gastrointestinal Sciences, CMC Vellore	Co-Chairperson
3	Dr Jayaprakash Muliyil, Former Principal, CMC, Vellore	Member
4	Dr Kamal Raj, Advisor to Government on Public Health, GoAP	Member
5	Sri Nanda Kishore Kannuri, Additional Professor, Public Health Foundation of India, Hyderabad	Member
6	Dr Puttaraju A K Jetty, Sub Regional Team Leader (AP & Telangana), World Health Organization	Member
7	Dr Savithri, Additional Director, Disease Control Program, State Surveillance officer, O/o Director of Public Health, DoHFW	Member Convenor
8	Dr Usha Kalawat MD, Professor of Microbiology, SVIMS, Tirupati	Member
9	Dr Shankar Reddy Dudala MD, Associate Professor, Dept of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (RIMS), Kadapa	Member

5. The Terms-of-Reference of the Committee:

a. The Principal objective of the Committee is to make recommendations for securing quality epidemiological study design with proper justifications and protocols, calculating sample sizes, developing case definitions, choosing an appropriate comparison group, and designing questionnaires.
b. Conduct of study by securing appropriate clearances and approvals, adhering to appropriate ethical principles, abstracting records, tracking down and interviewing subjects, collecting and handling specimens, and managing the data.
c. Analyze the data with appropriate techniques duly following the epidemiological studies world over.

P.T.O.

d. Interpretation of the findings into perspective, identifying the key takehome messages, and making sound recommendations relevant to the field situations of AP.
e. Mentoring field teams through providing high level support to the District Epidemiologists on systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of health data to help guide public health decision making and action.
f. Strengthening of technical capacities of District Epidemiologists and Surveillance Officers to collect, collate, analyze, interpret and use the information to inform decisions at all levels by developing strong data quality control mechanism to improve quality of routine data collection, registration and reporting.
g. Strategic planning of operations for disease outbreaks with multisectoral integration of clinical care and public health capacity.
h. Each member of the Expert Committee is expected to have the knowledge and the experience to Identify key criteria to do simple data quality checks, and Identify correction actions for undesirable data quality to improve quality of reports for program decision.
i. Committee will work together with the District Epidemiologists in putting in place the following systems in place as these systems are crucial to contain a disease outbreak at an early stage.
    a. Developing and quality tested functional and effective surveillance and response system.
    b. Developing a set of skilled public health workforce in each district.
    c. Developing model for functional and networked laboratory.
    d. Develop and establish Inter-sectoral collaboration with line departments.
    e. Develop and integrate a strengthened public health delivery system with organic assimilation of the existing public health care systems in the state.
j. Early Warning System: Expert Committee has a role to put in place an Early Warning System, as it is very crucial to effectively disseminate alerts, and warnings and ensure there is constant state of preparedness. A complete and effective early warning system with risk analysis, monitoring and warning; dissemination and communication; and a response capability.

6. The Committee will undertake extensive field visits, hold workshops, conduct focus ground discussions and interact with a wide cross section of the stakeholders before finalizing the report.

7. The Committee shall decide the methodology for its work and co-opt any specialist as deemed appropriate. The Committee shall meet at least once in two weeks or as often as required and submit bi-weekly report to the Principal Secretary to Government, HM&FW Department.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NILAM SAWHNEY
CHIEF SECREATRY TO GOVERNMENT

To
All the Members
The Commissioner of Health & Family Welfare, A.P., Vijayawada.
Copy to:
OSD to Dy. CM (H, FW&ME).
PS to Chief Secretary.
PS to Prl. Secy. to Government, HM&FW Department.
SF/SC.

// FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER